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MODI TO LAND ON PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY FOR ITS LAUNCH

The Prime Minister inaugurates today a key infra project that will connect Lucknow with less-developed east Uttar Pradesh

AIRSTRIP FOR FIGHTER JETS ON EXPRESSWAY

Narendra Modi will land on the Purvanchal Expressway in a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft when he arrives to inaugurate the 341-km-long road that has six lanes. Modi will then witness an IAF airshow on a 3.2-km airstrip — the PM's landing site that is also meant for emergency landings for IAF fighter jets — constructed on the expressway in Sultanpur district

PROJECT COMPLETED DESPITE LOCKDOWN

- Other expressways in India, as well as the NH 925 in Rajasthan, also have dedicated stretches for emergency aircraft landings
- The PM laid the foundation stone for the expressway in July 2018. The project was wrapped up in time despite 19 months of the pandemic-induced lockdown, UP CM Yogi Adityanath said

₹22,500 cr

TOTAL COST OF EXPRESSWAY, AS PER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

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CID to dial Interpol to trace digital trail in Bitcoin scam

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE main accused in the Bitcoin scam, Srikrishna alias Sriki alias AP (his Internet identity), has claimed that there are digital footprints of his crime in his logs, Skype chats and on Facebook etc. "The digital evidence needs to be forensically traced and investigated for a better understanding of the cybercrime. Since the servers of all these exchanges and websites are overseas, the assistance from the Interpol is necessary," said sources.

His claims of hacking gaming portals, international websites and crypto exchange servers in countries like the US, China, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Ukraine etc are now a subject of intense investigation.

After the City police, the CID, which is in the process of submitting the chargesheet in the hacking of the e-procurement website of the State government, is reportedly approaching the Interpol for help in hacking cases that Srikrishna has confessed to be reportedly involved in overseas with his "network of friends in Italy, France, Germany etc.

Sriki has been accused of downloading tender bids, hacking international websites, Bitclubs, stealing and dumping data and purchasing drugs on the Silk Road – the darknet market website, to moving 80,000 euros from cold wallets in India to Europe.

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CRYPTO ISSUE: PARL PANEL SUMMONS FINMIN

As the Centre looks to regulate Cryptocurrency, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance wants Finance Ministry officials to explain who will be the regulatory authority for cryptocurrency players and how the Centre is planning to regulate the industry, which defies the definition of standard "industry" or "assets" or "technology". P13

Service extension basket just got wider

Fundamental Rules amended to add 2 more years to possible tenures of defence & home secys, RAW & IB chiefs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DEFENCE and home secretaries as well as the director of Intelligence Bureau and the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) chief can now be given extensions of up to two years, as the Centre has just issued a gazette notification amending the Fundamental Rules of all services.

The Fundamental Rules, 1992, are an overarching set of rules that apply to all civilian government servants. They cover the entire gamut of their in-service and post-retirement working scenarios.

Officials said the gazette notification was needed to bring the rulebook in line with the two ordinances promulgated on Sunday to give the heads of the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) service extension up to three years beyond their fixed tenure of two years, one year at a time.

At present, civil servants have a fixed tenure of two years in these posts, and their appointments are governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act. Through the ordinance, the government amended the DSPE Act and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act so as to extend the service of the ED and CBI chiefs up to five years.

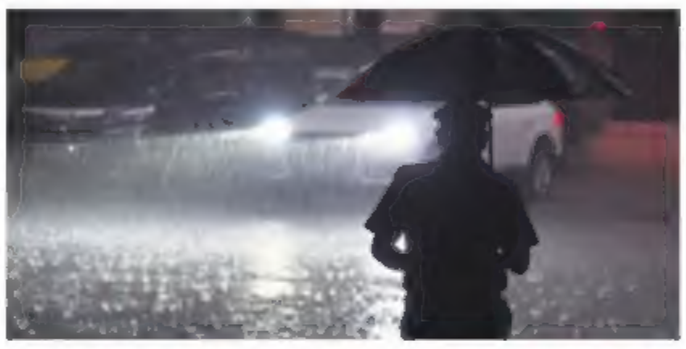
Monday's notification implies that if the government wants, it can extend the tenure of other senior officers — defence secretary, home secretary, IB director and RAW secretary — up to four years.

"This notification was necessary to clear the path for all such extensions as the Fundamental Rules are overarching," a senior government functionary said. The official said the objective of the ordinance as well as the notification is the same — to ensure that important policy decisions and investigations get adequate time. "It takes several months for the incumbent to just understand the organisation and next year it is time to go. So, it is in the interest of these institutions that the government has paved the way for longer tenures of these important officials."

Interestingly, the current home secretary as also the heads of IB and RAW are all on one-year extension after completing their two-year fixed terms.

TRINAMOOL MOVES NOTICE IN RAJYA SABHA

The Opposition kept up its attack on the ordinances, claiming they were aimed at "misusing the agencies". The Trinamool moved a notice for statutory resolutions in the Rajya Sabha against the ordinances



FURY FROM THE CLOUDS

Heavy rain lashed Bengaluru on Monday, flooding several areas. In less than four hours up to 8.30 pm, the city received 4 cm of rainfall | VINOD KUMAR T | P2

State aims to generate $150 bn in IT export revenues in next 5 yrs

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government, with an ambitious target of reaching $150 billion in revenue in IT exports in another five years, plans to capture markets across the state, with a greater focus on cities or clusters 'Beyond Bengaluru'.

"At present, Beyond Bengaluru contributes 2 per cent of IT revenue export — close to Rs 10,000 crore, and we want this to reach 5 per cent, which is Rs 50,000 crore, in the next five years. This is five times more than the present growth," said Minister for IT and BT Dr CN Ashwath Narayan in an exclusive interaction with *The New Indian Express* on Monday.

The Beyond Bengaluru initiative aims at bringing in at least 100 Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) companies and 5,000 IT companies and startups by 2026 in Beyond Bengaluru clusters.

IT-BT Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan at The New Indian Express office in Bengaluru on Monday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

The initiative is aimed at enhancing the growth in IT/ITeS, Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO), Electronic System Design Manufacturing (ESDM), and telecom sector industries located in emerging technology clusters across Karnataka, away from Bengaluru.

STATE GOVT LOOKS TO BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE THROUGH SAT SERVICES

With the Karnataka Government emphasising on taking industries 'Beyond Bengaluru', the state is planning to have satellite services for better internet facilities in rural and remote areas over the next two years. The state is committed to providing better internet connectivity to the last person, Minister for IT and BT Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said on Monday. P4

Karnataka contributes over Rs 58 lakh crore (US$ 58 billion) in exports as it is home to over 5,500 IT/ITeS companies. "From Bengaluru, now we are focusing on beyond Bengaluru. Instead of expanding in Bengaluru, we are asking companies to expand their presence beyond this city," the minister said.

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WHOLESALE INFLATION AT 5-MONTH HIGH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE rate of inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) touched a five-month high of 12.54% in the festival month of October against 10.66% in September on account of a surge in raw material prices. Experts say inflationary trends will continue in the coming months and industry will pass on the burden to consumers. "With demand reviving, we expect producers to start passing through higher input and freight costs, even as the tax cuts on fuels will offer them a breather," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

Fuel and power were among the major contributing sectors to the surge in WPI, with inflation in petrol climbing to 64.72% from 54.85% and that in diesel to 64.72% from 54.85%.

Inflation of raw materials such as vegetable oil and animal fats, chemical and chemical products, rubber and plastic products, cement, lime and plaster, basic metals, semi-finished steel, peaked further in October. As a result, manufacturing products inflation shot up from 11.56% to 12.04%.

Prices of primary food items kept falling in October though the deceleration moderated to 1.69% from 4.69%. Vegetable prices slipped from 32.45% to 18.49%. However, fruits became dearer as inflation swelled to 8.14% from 4.47%.

According to Nayar, early data for November suggests a continuation of the rise in prices of vegetables.

SEEKING CO-OP

Change policies to attract investment: CM to Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday sought the cooperation of the Centre to evolve a transparent mechanism to share leads about investors and to come out with a clear policy on forest and environmental clearances required for various projects, extending special incentives to different sectors and developing townships within Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

These policies require amendments to laws governing urban and rural local bodies, he said during Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's pre-budget meeting with the chief ministers of various states through video conferencing.

Bommai also said that the Centre should direct banks to finance new businesses, such as electric vehicles and medical technology. He suggested that a dispute resolution mechanism should be devised to resolve disputes quickly outside the court.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

SC collegium sends back names of 11 judges

New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana has reiterated 11 names for elevation as judges in the Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Calcutta high courts. Once reiterated, the Centre will not have the option to reject the recommendations. P7

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

Nov 14: 30,20,119 doses

Nov 15: 54,46,295 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 112,91,49,871

NATIONWIDE	NOV 14	NOV 15
Fresh cases	11,271	10,229
Recoveries	11,376	11,926
Deaths	285	125

KARNATAKA	NOV 14	NOV 15
Fresh cases	236	171
Recoveries	264	255
Deaths	2	1

DOUBLE

INTERNSHIP FOR FOREIGN MBBS GRADS

Securing registration to practice medicine in India could get tougher for students pursing medicine abroad as they will now have to do double internships — once in the country where they got the MBBS and again in India — as per new norms to be released. About 10,000-12,000 students go abroad every year to pursue MBBS | P9

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